

REMARKS

Applicants, solely in an effort to expedite prosecution of the pending claims to allowance, have amended claims 27, 49, 64, 71, 76, 104, and 174, and have cancelled claims 28-48, 50-63, 65, 66, 69, 70, 75, 78, 80, 87, 88, 92, 93, 95, 98-101, 103, 106-109, 112, 113, 117, 118, 120, 124, 125, 127, 169, 171, and 173. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to the deleted or cancelled subject matter in a timely filed continuation or divisional application.

Claims 27, 49, 64, 67, 68, 71-74, 76, 77, 79, 81-86, 89-91, 94, 96, 97, 102, 104, 105, 110, 111, 114-116, 119, 121-123, 126, 128-135, 138, 139, 144-168, 170, 172, and 174-178 are now pending in the instant application. No new matter has been added as a result of the above-described amendments.

Applicants respectfully contend that all conditions of patentability are met in the pending claims as amended. Allowance of the claims is thereby respectfully solicited. If Examiner O'Hara believes it to be helpful, she is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

Dated: January 23, 2004

By: 

Donald L. Zuhn, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 48,710